

Rhode Island Interim Assessments

Test Specifications for Fixed-Form Interim English Language Arts Assessments

March 2012

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the design and specification for the *Rhode Island Fixed-Form Interim English Language Arts (ELA) Assessments*. The objective of these assessments is to provide progress monitoring information. The progress monitoring information will provide an indication of a student's proficiency on selected critical content and skills measuring the Common Core State Standards.

Test Design

The fixed-form interim assessments will be administered three times per year. The tentative administration schedule is provided below.

- Fall: November
- Winter: February
- Spring: April

Each of the three interim assessments is intended to provide progress information in three organizing elements in the reading strand of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts: Key Ideas & Details, Craft & Structure, and Integration of Knowledge & Ideas. The assessments will survey the most of the standards for a grade level, and each administration's assessment will include items from the three organizing elements mentioned above.

The fixed-form interim assessments are sectioned into three sessions; each session is designed to be administered in a 42-minute class period; however, more than one session could be administered during a class period for schools with block scheduling. In general, each session should take most students about thirty minutes to complete, but students should be given as much time as necessary to complete each session. Each session will consist of a mixture of multiple-choice items, 2-point evidence-based selected response items, and 4-point constructed-response items.

Grade Level Emphasis

The Common Core State Standard's emphasis on literary and informational texts changes across grade levels. The fixed form interim assessments reflect this degree of emphasis on text type—grades 3-5 will have equal emphasis on literary passages and informational texts, whereas grades 6-11 will have a greater emphasis on informational passages, while still including some literary texts. The tables below show the distribution of text type.

Grades 3 – 5

Table 1
Type of Text

Fall	Winter	Spring
Literary	Literary	Literary
Informational	Informational	Informational

Table 2
Organizing Elements with point distribution

Key Ideas & Details	Each organizing element will have points distributed across the two text selections
Craft & Structure	
Integration of Knowledge	

Grades 6 – 11

Table 3
Type of Text

Fall	Winter	Spring
Literary	Literary	Informational
Informational	Informational	Informational*

*Grades 6 – 11 will include four informational texts across the three test administrations. There will be two informational texts in one administration; it may not always be the spring administration, as shown above.

Table 4
Organizing Elements with point distribution

Key Ideas & Details	Each organizing element will have points distributed across the two text selections
Craft & Structure	
Integration of Knowledge	